An Appeal to the Public;

OR, THE

CASE

OF

Mr ISAAC BRODERICK,

Late of *Trinity* College *Cambridge*,

FAIRLY and IMPARTIALLY Stated.

Wherein the **Contrivance, Malice,** and **Perjury** of his **Enemies** is manifestly detected, and the whole World left to judge, whether he deserves the barbarous Treatment he has met with.

Hi sunt qui de Populi malis opes quærunt, qui regnum suum producunt in miseros, artibusque suis magnam illam Gentem, quæ Clientum miseriis saginatur, perenni pastu implent. Certè Regni ingens plaga, & exitium virtutis, cum sub justo Principe, *injuriâ Magistratuum, innocentes opprimantur. Sed sæpe Divinitatis hæc sunt Opera, ut Furias in ipso jam successu securas, subita ultio excipiat, ne vel unquam improbis timor, vel spes absit calamitosæ Virtuti.*

Barcl. Satyricon.

Humbly Inscribed to the Worshipful *John Raby* Esq; Serjeant at Law, and late Deputy Recorder of the City of LONDON.

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Advertiſement.

In a ſhort Time will be publiſh'd the following Treatiſes.

*** I. THE *grievous Abuſe of Charitable Foundations.*

†+† II. *The horrible Judgments of God on Perjury; to which are added, as an Appendix, four very remarkable Stories of corrupt and partial Judges.*

† III. *Certain Memoirs of the Life of a late Deputy Recorder in the Capital City of the Iſland* UTOPIA.

——Caſtigas turpia, cum ſis
Inter Sotadicos notiſſima Foſſa Cinædos?
Juv. Sat. ii.

†+†+ IV. Opprobium Legis: *Or, the Diſgrace of the Law; ſhewing by what Scandalous Methods a certain Juſtice of the Peace, near* Wapping, *procur'd himſelf to be put into the Commiſſion. With two Satires, the one on Corrupt Juries, and the other on Trading Juſtices.* i. e. *ſuch who live by their Places.*

BRITISH MUSEUM

An Appeal to the Public;

OR, THE

CASE

OF

Mr ISAAC BRODERICK,

Late of *Trinity*-College *Cambridge.*

WERE human Kind endow'd with the divine Property of judging impartially of their Fellow Creatures, could they pry into the Heart, and trace the Springs of every Action thro' the ſecret Receſſes of the Soul, 'twere needleſs and impertinent to write an Apology. But whilſt we are naturally Slaves to Prejudice and Paſſion, 'tis impoſſible but the faireſt Actions muſt be ſometimes miſrepreſented, and Innocence itſelf labour under the vileſt Aſperſions. That this has been the Fate of the beſt

of Men, the Hiſtories of all Ages undeniably prove; and the Examples of ſuffering Virtue and triumphant Villainy are too numerous to require any particular Inſtances.

But what is moſt lamentable, the generality of Mankind always judge on the uncharitable ſide, and take a malignant Pleaſure in the defamation and ruin of a fair Character. Now how barbarous this Practice is, may be eaſily gather'd from that prodigious Value every honeſt Man ſets on his Reputation: and doubtleſs, how little ſoever ſome Perſons regard the want of it in themſelves, or how light ſoever they make in blaſting that of others, a good Name will be always accounted one of the greateſt Felicities of Life. What ſavage Tempers therefore muſt thoſe Men be of, who caſt out Firebrands, Arrows, and Death, and ſay are we not in Sport? Who can triumph over the Calamities of their Fellow Creatures, and ſmile at that which gives to others inexpreſſible Anguiſh? But reaſoning is loſt on ſuch, who are Strangers to Pity and the tender Offices of Humanity; who can never ſpy any Fault in themſelves, nor any Virtue in others; who think no Revenge too ſevere, if their own Characters be ever ſo lightly touch'd, but at the ſame time can hear the moſt cruel and improbable Story of their Neighbour with a ſecret Satisfaction. They will not conſider that Compaſſion is due even to the guilty, and much more to injured Innocence. Doubtleſs thoſe who have been ſo very mercileſs in judging others, ſhall hereafter receive Judgment without Mercy themſelves.

But

But where dark ambiguous Expreſſions and ſly Inſinuations, where private Whiſperings and public Aſperſions fail to ruin an eſtabliſh'd Character, there is a more certain and more criminal Method to be taken, that is, by ſuborning falſe Witneſſes to appear in a Court of Juſtice. Nor can any one, tho' of the moſt regular Conduct, be ſecure either of Life, Fortune, or Reputation (which to ſome is dearer than both) ſo long as there are wicked and deſigning Men ready upon all Occaſions to gratify their Malice, by the moſt unlawful Means. Whilſt there are great Rogues to plot and contrive, there never will be wanting little ones to execute their Drudgery; a very ſmall Bribe being Temptation enough to thoſe who live by Perjury. In ſuch Caſes, neither the Magiſtrate nor the Jury are to be blamed, ſince they muſt judge according to the Nature of the Evidence; and it is not to be expected that Providence ſhould be at the Expence of a Miracle, every time a Perſon is unjuſtly accuſed, or ſend an Angel from Heaven to proclaim his Innocence.

The good natur'd Reader will excuſe me, if I have been leſs guarded in my Expreſſions. 'Tis ſome ſmall Eaſe to vent our Sorrows, and none will envy the wretched Pleaſure of complaining, to one, who has ſuffer'd ſuch a variety of Woes, ſuch numberleſs Indignities from the Rage and Malice of deſigning Men. I write to the generous few, who dare eſpouſe the Cauſe of injured Innocence, in ſpight of pamper'd Wealth, and inſolent Greatneſs; who can ſpy the native

Charms

Charms of Virtue in its moſt forlorn Eſtate, and admire Integrity ſtruggling beneath a load of Misfortunes; who know, that Thouſands have been Convicted who were intirely innocent of the Charge; that have been revil'd and curſed here, but ſhall hereafter receive the Applauſe of God, of Angels, and of good Men.

If the Accuſations of profligate Men, if the reproaches of malicious Tongues, and the inſults of a rude inconſiderate Multitude be an infallible ſign of Guilt, I muſt own my ſelf a Criminal indeed, and that I ought to have ſuffer'd more than I have already. But that is ſcarce poſſible. Envy has ſhot the keeneſt of her Arrows. Invectives more ſevere, Calumnies more barbarous, none could labour under; nor did that many-headed Monſter, the People, ever expreſs their Reſentment in a more ſavage Manner.

I preſume the World is ſufficiently convinc'd, ſome Perſons are capable of any thing. I ſhall not endeavour to palliate the Matter on my own ſide, or exaggerate any one Circuſtance on the other, but leave the Reader to determine whether I have been wrong'd or no. Thoſe who object, that the Misfortunes of one ſo inconſiderable are of no conſequence to the Public, do not conſider, they themſelves are liable to the ſame, and that what is one Man's Caſe, may be every Man's. I know, my Adverſaries think me deſperate, and that I have neither Will nor Power to apologize for my ſelf: accordingly they have made it their Buſineſs to blaſt a Character which I was always particularly tender of,

by

by vilifying me in the Neighbourhood where I liv'd, by expoſing me in the public Papers, and uſing a thouſand diſhoneſt Arts to diſpirit me, and render the Odium as general as poſſible. My Buſineſs muſt be to draw the Veil aſide, and paint 'em in their proper Colours: nor ſhall I uſe any bitter Language (though ſurely if ever any Injury required it, this does) but juſt ſet down the bare Matter of Fact, and appeal *to God and my Country* for Juſtice.

In what manner I have ſpent the former part of my Life, is unneceſſary to trouble the World with. Be it ſufficient to mention that I had a generous Education, and behav'd my ſelf ſo as to gain the Eſteem of my Superiors; tho' there are few of my Age (having ſcarce ſeen above three and twenty) who have met with heavier Diſappointments, or born them with more Patience and Reſignation. In a moſt unhappy Hour I left that pleaſing Retirement, where I had the beſt Opportunity of improving my Studies, to ſtand Candidate for an Office that no way ſuited my Temper, and to aſk Favours of ſuch Perſons whom I could not but deſpiſe. But it has been the hard Fate of much better Men, to ſubmit their Inclinations to their preſent Neceſſities. I thought my ſelf capable of managing a petty Free-School in the Gift of the *Coopers* Company. Accordingly I made Intereſt for it, and coming very well recommended, was choſen by a conſiderable Majority. I was choſen indeed, but in ſuch a Manner as made me then prognoſticate the Uſage I was to expect. For the Maſter of the Company, who was my mortal Enemy, expreſs'd the inveterate Rancour of his

Heart

Heart againſt me in ſuch vile Terms, that I ſhould actually have reſigned the Place upon the ſpot, had not a certain Gentleman ſeverely check'd his Inſolence. In ſhort I appeal to the whole Court of Aſſiſtants, to my Enemies as well as Friends, whether on the Day of my Election, they ever ſaw a Perſon expreſs greater ſigns of Prejudice and Malice, and with ſo little Reaſon.

Now to trace this Affair from its very ſource, I muſt beg leave to mention a few Paſſages concerning Mr *W*——, the ſole Promoter of the Proſecution againſt me. I ſhall not ſpeak a Word of his ſour moroſe Temper, generally expreſſed in the fouleſt Language, nor of his barbarous and uncharitable Cenſures of others, nor of his implacable Malice againſt thoſe he is reſolved to injure. I could produce a great Number of Inſtances to prove the little regard he has either to his Words or Actions; but this ſingle Paſſage will ſuffice to ſet his Character in a true Light. When the Place firſt became vacant, a Clergyman made Application to him for his Vote and Intereſt. Mr *W*——, tho' he bore a deadly hatred to the whole Order, gave him his abſolute Promiſe. But mark the End. After he had given the Gentleman this Encouragement, and put him to great Charges, beſides the Fatigue and loſs of Time, he very honeſtly procur'd an Order to be made that no Clergyman ſhould be elected. Soon after this it was my ill Fortune to apply to him among the reſt of the *Coopers*. But when he found what Intereſt I had made, he reſolved within himſelf, right or wrong, to oppoſe me; having already conceiv'd a Grudge

a Grudge againſt me for Reaſons, which afterwards he was obliged to acknowledge entirely falſe and groundleſs. However the conſcientious Man gave me his Promiſe and Oath, in the moſt ſolemn Manner, tho' at the ſame time he was privately undermining my Intereſt; and when I depended upon his Vote, treacherouſly gave it to one *V——r*.

He endeavoured indeed to excuſe himſelf for this baſe Treatment; but 'twas like thoſe Proſtitutes, who, to conceal their Shame, commit Murder. In ſhort, he pretended, the Reaſon of his uſing me in this Manner, was, becauſe my Father had liv'd a Rogue and died a Papiſt, that I was diſaffected to the Government, had been expell'd the Univerſity, and bore a bad Character. I could not but be aſtoniſh'd at the Malice of theſe Aſperſions; yet was ſo far happy, that they were almoſt as eaſily confuted, as fooliſhly and wickedly invented. I think, had he had even common Humanity, he would have forborn diſturbing the Aſhes of the Dead, and ſo barbarouſly reviling the Memory of one, who always behav'd, in the loweſt Stations of Life, as became a Man of Honour and a Chriſtian. That a Papiſt ſhould educate his Children in the ſtricteſt Principles of the reform'd Religion, is neither probable nor reaſonable to ſuppoſe; unleſs perhaps Mr *W*— will allow none to be good Proteſtants but * Preſbyterians and Quakers.

* *This is not ſpoke by way of Reflexion, ſince I am acquainted with ſeveral worthy Gentlemen of that denomination: but only to expoſe the groſs Ignorance of Mr* W. *who being as illiterate as malicious, thought that no other Body of Men could lawfully claim the title of Proteſtant, but that which he belong'd to.*

In a Word, this Calumny needs no Confutation, ſince the Curate of *Ratcliff* is now alive, who frequently viſited him in his Illneſs, and adminiſter'd the Sacrament to him, a day or two before his deceaſe, according to the Church of *England*.

As to my Diſaffection to the Government, I brought undeniable Proof to the contrary, if the Certificate of my having taken the Oaths, and the Teſtimony, not only of my own equals, but of a Biſhop and many other noted Perſonages, be any Proof at all. I dare affirm, I have ſignaliz'd my Loyalty to our preſent happy Eſtabliſhment, but not in the manner Mr *W—ſe* has done, by meer Railings and Curſes on the oppoſite Party.

The Report of my Expulſion from the Univerſity was ſoon ſtifled by the learned Dr *Bentley*, Maſter of *Trinity College* in *Cambridge*; who, upon my Requeſt, readily ſign'd the following Teſtimonial.

THIS is to certify whom it may concern, that Iſaac Broderick *has been a Scholar of* Trin. Coll. *in the Univerſity of* Cambridge, *for upwards of five Years laſt paſt. That he has been abſent ſome time, upon account of the Death of his Father, but was never guilty of any Miſdemeanour, having behav'd himſelf in a ſober, regular, and ſtudious manner, during the whole time of his Reſidence; and that he is at this preſent Writing, a Member of the ſaid College. Witneſs my Hand this 11th Day of* Feb. $17\frac{2}{30}$.

Rich. Bentley.

But my implacable Enemy, reſolved that nothing ſhould alter his Reſolution, deny'd the Certificate to be authentic, and induſtriouſly reported

ported every where, I had forg'd the Doctor's Hand. Had this Calumny obtain'd, it muſt have done me an irreparable Injury; but the Reverend Dr *Gaſcoign*, Miniſter of *Alhallows Barking*, ſoon atteſted the contrary to one of the principal Electors. Beſides, Dr *Bentley* being then in Town, I preſume, the Company convinc'd themſelves from his own Mouth.

As to my bearing an indifferent Character, he well knew ſuch Aſperſion to be groundleſs and villainous. Was it poſſible for any one of the other Candidates to produce a quarter ſo many Teſtimonials of his honeſt and regular Deportment? Was not every part of my Life and Converſation pry'd into, both publicly and privately, by Enemies as well as Friends, both in Town and at the Univerſity? And what was the Reſult of all this extraordinary Trouble, but an Acknowledgment from the Company, that no one could come with a more unexceptionable Character? I know none of any Worth or Reputation, but what will ſpeak handſomely of me. As for others, their Smiles and Frowns, their Bleſſings and Curſings, equally affect me. The Praiſe of ſuch would be a Reproach and Scandal.

Any unprejudic'd Reader may well judge, that one, who could invent ſo many barbarous Lies, out of his own Head, without the leaſt Foundation, would now ſcruple at nothing. He was ſenſible, it lay in my Power to call him to a ſevere Account; and indeed all my Friends adviſ'd me to it. But as I found, he had not ſo much leſſened my Intereſt, as diſclos'd the Malice and Wickedneſs of his own Intentions, I thought him beſt anſwered with Silence and Con-

tempt. One might have expected, as he had already prov'd himſelf ſo notorious a Liar, that he would have deſiſted from any further Attempt. But Malice, tho' diſappointed, is never ſatisfy'd; and the bearing of one Injury patiently does but invite another. He now grew more outragious, threw out the bittereſt Invectives, and uſed a thouſand baſe Arts to prejudice my Friends, and exaſperate my Enemies. In ſhort, the Day of Election drawing near, he made it his Buſineſs, old and infirm as he was, to go amongſt thoſe in my intereſt, and repreſent me in the blackeſt Light that Words could invent; although, when he was deſired to produce any particular Inſtance of my ill Conduct, his only Anſwer was foul Language and Railing. I ſhall mention but one Paſſage out of many: The Evening before Election, this Mr *W*— went to Sir *Peter Eaton*'s, and intreated him to vote againſt me, uſing many raſh and fooliſh Expreſſions. Sir *Peter*, knowing the wicked Temper of the Man, received him very coldly, never aſk'd him to ſit down, but at once abſolutely deny'd his Requeſt. This Uſage mortify'd him to ſuch a degree, that, being blind with Rage, he ſwore *I was a Papiſt and a Rogue, and that, I ſhould not hold the Place long; and that, if it were poſſible, he would do me a mortal Injury.* Theſe Expreſſions, with many others to the ſame purpoſe, were ſolemnly atteſted not only by Sir *Peter Eaton* and his Lady, but by their Coachman, Footman, and other Servants in the Family, all in general adviſing me to beware of him, for he was a wicked Man.

Theſe

Theſe abovementioned Paſſages cannot ſeem entirely foreign to our preſent Deſign, ſince they ſerve to prove the inveterate Malice of Mr *W*—— the main Promoter of that vile Proſecution againſt me; and as he was guilty before this, of ſo many palpable Falſities, all the World muſt imagine, he would not have the ſtricteſt regard to Truth in this particular. None was ever compleatly wicked at once. Mr *W*—— began with dark Innuendo's and ſly Inſinuations. Theſe proving ineffectual, he grew more open and aſpers'd my Character in public, which at length drew him to the Subornation of falſe Witneſſes, and the contriving as black a Scene of Villainy, as has been heard of for many Years.

I muſt own, were I ſo vile as Fame has repreſented me, I ſhould be unworthy to live a moment longer. But if I can prove it a wicked Conſpiracy, form'd with a Deſign of building another Perſon's Fortune upon my Ruin: that I have always born the moſt unblemiſh'd of Characters, and my Accuſers the moſt infamous: that many diſhoneſt and illegal Practices have been made uſe of, by ſuborning Witneſſes and corrupting the Evidence: that the Proſecution was not ſet on foot, (ſuppoſing I had been guilty) from any Regard to Juſtice, but only to gratify a cruel implacable Temper, and to ſerve a preſent Turn: that I have been treated with the utmoſt Barbarity both before, at, and after my Tryal: and that my Accuſers themſelves, after I had ſuffered the Rigour of the Law, confeſs'd the whole Contrivance: I hope the World will be convinc'd, how greatly I have been abus'd. If I ſhould be ſo unfortunate as ſtill to labour under

der the ill Opinion of Mankind, yet the Conſciouſneſs of my own Integrity will be ſome Conſolation, and the Hopes of an impartial Tribunal hereafter, make the Burden ſupportable.

One has juſtly obſerv'd, that whoever is a Candidate for an Office, eſpecially in ſuch a Company as this, where the Members are of ſuch different Sects and Intereſts, muſt not be ſurpris'd to ſee all the Blemiſhes of his Life induſtriouſly expos'd, and others invented by the oppoſite Party, in order to vilify his Character as much as poſſible. But not to inſiſt on this, I appeal to every one the leaſt acquainted with my Misfortunes, whether their Uſage, before Election, was not very unaccountable. To paſs by a Number of Indignities, what was the Reaſon of Mr *W*——'s making that an Objection, which ought to have been a Recommendation, my having been educated at the Univerſity? Their binding me with ſuch ſcandalous Articles, as, that I ſhould not have the liberty of chooſing an Uſher, which no preceeding Maſter had ever been debarr'd from? That I ſhould not enter into Eccleſiaſtical Orders under the Penalty of 200 *l. &c.* In ſhort, my Friends were amaz'd, how I could deign to accept of the Place upon ſuch diſhonourable Terms. I don't queſtion, but when the Reader is inform'd, that few or none but Clergymen have been Maſters ſince the Foundation, and that there is a Chapel annexed to the School for performing Divine Service, he will eaſily obſerve the Injuſtice of the laſt mentioned Clauſe, and judge what ſort of People I had to deal with. Indeed when I expoſtulated

with

with one of the Company, a Friend of the ſaid *W*——'s, concerning the particular Hardſhip of this, he reply'd, *any Man might run over a few Prayers, as well without Orders, as with 'em.* Certainly I was infatuated, or I might have perceived ſome Deſign at the Bottom of this unreaſonable Uſage: Nay, Mr *W*—— had ſaid, he was ſure I never would ſubmit to the Conditions he had propos'd. But when he found me elected, ſo contrary to his Expectations, he was heard to bid the other Candidate make himſelf eaſy, for I ſhould not hold the Place long. 'Tis alſo ſomething remarkable, that when this laſt vile Aſperſion was firſt rais'd, ſome expreſs'd leſs Surpriſe than might have been expected on ſuch an occaſion; and being aſk'd the Reaſon, replied, *Mr* W—— *was too much my Enemy to leave any thing unattempted in order to ruin me, and that from the particular Malice of this Man and ſome others of his Party, they never imagined I ſhould continue long in the Place.*

In ſhort, I have undeniable Reaſons to believe, this Scheme was concerted long before the leaſt Rumour of it in public, from many unguarded Expreſſions, dropt in the hearing both of my ſelf and Friends, on the very Day of Election. But I am credibly inform'd that Mr *W*—— expreſs'd his malicious Deſigns much more openly, at the Tavern near *Guild-Hall*, where the Court of Aſſiſtants din'd, ſo that ſeveral of the ſaid Court privately cautioned me to beware of him. I could bring a Number of ſuſpicious Paſſages in relation to *V*——*r*, but theſe two ſhall ſuffice at preſent. The very firſt *Wedneſday* I came to the School, I happened to have ſome Diſcourſe with the

the Clergyman, who officiated in the Chapel for the wretched Pittance of * 4 *l. per Ann.* He told me he had lately been with *V——r*, in order to be continued in the Station he was at preſent, having been miſinform'd, that the ſaid *V——r* was choſen Maſter. That as they were talking together concerning me, the ſaid *V——r* affirm'd, *He could eaſily hinder me from getting one Scholar, and that I ſhould have ſmall Enjoyment of the Place.* I am ſenſible, this Clergyman is not the moſt likely Perſon in the World to ſpeak the Truth againſt his own Intereſt, but believe he will ſcarce have the face to deny, ſuch an Expreſſion was uſed: if he ſhould, there are enough to atteſt it. The other Inſtance is, of two Perſons who offered to prove in Court (tho' Mr *R.* was pleas'd to ſtifle their Evidence) that Mr *W——* ſent to the ſaid *V——r*, above a Week before the Time laid in the Indictment, and order'd him *To keep in the Way, for he had now ſomething plotting in his Head, which he did not doubt would do my Buſineſs.* Theſe are the very Words which were immediately committed to writing, for fear of Miſtakes. Not a Syllable of this is mentioned in the Seſſions-Paper.

Thoſe who know the Pleaſure of having a fair Character, may eaſily imagine the Rage, the Grief, and Aſtoniſhment, I labour'd under, when the Report came to my hearing. But as I could only gueſs at the Authors, and could accuſe my ſelf of nothing, I reſolved to wait the Event,

* *The Allowance of the Worſhipful Company of* Coopers *to the Miniſter, for reading Prayers twice every Week the whole Year.*

and

and accordingly went abroad as uſual. At length I heard my old Adverſary Mr *W*—— had been uncommonly buiſy in this Affair; what Joy and Satisfaction he expreſs'd at the ſpreading of the Story; how he had ſent for ſome Children, and examin'd them in public as well as private, to to make the thing appear more plauſible; that he had been to ſome of their Parents, particularly Mrs *Heading*, and threaten'd them with *Newgate*, for refuſing to ſend their Children as Evidences. *V*——*r* was not inſenſible of this Peice of Villainy, but being interrogated in Court, utterly deny'd it: nor was it to be wonder'd at, ſince he had now gone too far to turn back, and his * Livelihood depended upon my Ruin.

Had I known my ſelf guilty, I could eaſily have abſconded, having heard the Rumour ſeveral Days, before there was the leaſt Talk of apprehending me. Indeed I was inform'd, Matters would never have been brought to this extremity, had not I ſo warmly expreſs'd my Reſentment againſt Mr *W*——, and threaten'd to revenge my ſelf. This greatly alarm'd him (as well it might) and now he ſaw, 'twas neceſſary for his own Defence, that I ſhould ſeem to have deſerv'd this foul Aſperſion: which made him and his Emiſſaries lay their Heads together, to invent ſomething that might amount to a Miſdemeanour. I own, a Man's Preſumption is no Proof of his Innocence. But ſure the World will think it highly improbable, as I knew the

* —— Quæ non mortalia pectora cogis
Auri ſacra fames?

juſt Severities of the Law in ſuch Caſes, that I ſhould wilfully expoſe my ſelf to the Rage and Inſults of a mercileſs People, and to a Puniſhment more ignominious than Death itſelf, had I been any way criminal. Let the World judge, whether my Behaviour had the leaſt Appearance of Guilt. When Mr *W*—— ſent an Officer to apprehend me, I demanded to ſee his Warrant, and found neither my Chriſtian nor Sirname in it; yet was ſo far from refuſing to go with him, as he ſaid I might have lawfully done, that I dreſs'd immediately, and went, being glad to meet with this opportunity of clearing my ſelf.

A public Houſe near *Shadwell* Church was the Place of Examination, where I muſt confeſs, I was not a little ſurpris'd to ſee Mr *J*—— ſit as a Juſtice of Peace, with Mr *W*—— at his right hand. Though I was almoſt a Stranger to his Perſon, yet I was well acquainted with his Character, and, eſpecially as he was Mr *W*——'s intimate Friend, had no Reaſon to expect the faireſt Treatment. However, waving all Objections, I deſir'd to enter on the Matter in hand. Upon this, a Paper was read, wherein, as Mr *J*—— ſaid, the Depoſitions of two Boys, whoſe Names were *Ham* and *Cale*, the one of about ten Years of Age, and the other of about eleven, were contained. I was indeed under no ſmall Confuſion of Mind, at being charged with ſuch Practices, that even Nature bluſhes at. Modeſty will not permit me to mention particulars; nor is it needful: ſince Mr *W*—— has been too induſtrious to make them public. But when we were confronted together, I could not wonder that ſuch Children, and the Children of ſuch Parents

ſhould

ſhould ſwear to any thing. Not that they could have the leaſt Notion of the Solemnity of an Oath: but it ſeems, their Parents had heard them uſe ſuch and ſuch Expreſſions; upon which weak Foundation the whole Superſtructure was built. Oh! how peremptory is Malice! How doth it turn bare Poſſibilities into Certainties! Was this ſufficient to ruin any one? Much more a Perſon of Reputation? Yes, leſs would have condemn'd me in the eyes of prejudic'd Men. Some indeed would ſcarce have admitted the Evidence of ſuch infamous People, upon any Account, not even againſt the vileſt Miſcreant breathing. Had not both been in *Newgate*, and one, if not both, condemn'd for Felony? Was not the Wife of one, a Woman of the moſt ſhameleſs Impudence, who had lived many Years in open Adultery before her Huſband's Face? Who had been often perjur'd, and often in the County Goal, once for being concern'd with *Neeves*, a Street-Robber, who was afterwards hang'd? Were not all his Daughters, eſpecially the Mother of the Boy, ſuch abandon'd Proſtitutes (their Debaucheries being not only conniv'd at, but encourag'd by their Parents) that it was ſufficient to ruin any one's Character, to be ſeen in their Company? In ſhort, (not to mention Particulars, which would be endleſs) I appeal to the whole Neighbourhood, to the whole Pariſh of *Stepney*, nay to all that ever heard their Names, whether any Families ever bore a fouler Character; whether they have not been concern'd in Practices as villainous as this before, or ever ſcrupled at any thing for a proper Gratuity.

But 'tis needleſs to endeavour expoſing ſuch Perſons, who never can be painted blacker by others, than they are already by their own Confeſſion. I had ſcarce begun this Apology, after having recovered from a violent Fever, but one of theſe wretched Women, being ſtung with Remorſe of Conſcience for having been concern'd in ſo wicked a Contrivance, laid violent hands on her ſelf, after ſhe had revil'd her Father in the bittereſt Terms, for having taken Reward againſt the innocent. I will not rake into the Grave of this unhappy Creature, or bring the former Impurities of her Life to Remembrance, becauſe ſhe has anſwer'd for 'em, long e'er this, at an impartial Tribunal. But were I to paſs over in Silence ſo remarkable an Event, I ſhould do my ſelf very great Injuſtice: and doubtleſs if the voluntary Confeſſion of a mortal Enemy, neither allur'd by Bribes nor extorted by Menaces, be any Demonſtration, the World cannot but think me wrong'd to the laſt Degree. This Woman had been frequently wont to reproach her Father upon my Account, with the moſt opprobrious Language; but one Day having particularly exaſperated one another, and exchang'd ſome Blows, ſhe was heard to cry, *Go, you forſworn Villain! Swear againſt another as you have done againſt* Broderick. *You deſerve to be hang'd for what you have done, and I my ſelf will inform againſt you.* Not long after this, ſhe flew away in a violent Rage, and hang'd herſelf. But whether ſhe made any Noiſe, or the Family ſuſpected her Deſign, they ran time enough to cut her down with Life in her. Being come to her ſelf, ſhe rav'd with moſt horrid Imprecations againſt her

her Father, uſing more bitter Expreſſions than before. In ſhort, retaining the ſame gloomy Diſpoſition, ſhe ſoon made a ſecond Attempt, which prov'd more fatal than the former; for tho' a Surgeon was immediately ſent for to bleed her, ſhe was now ſpeechleſs and paſt all Hopes of Recovery.

If I have been miſinform'd, as to any minute Particulars of the abovementioned Paſſage, I am ready to make a public Acknowledgment. When the thing happen'd, I was ſick, and confin'd. The Father it ſeems has ſtrenuouſly given out, in contradiction to my Narrative, that ſhe hang'd herſelf but once. Moſt excellent Defence! juſt as if a Priſoner at the Bar, try'd for giving another twenty mortal Stabs, ſhould plead in his own Vindication, that he had given but nineteen. But be it ſo. The moſt material Circumſtances are ſtill undeniable. 'Tis agreed on all hands, that ſhe was the vileſt of Women, that ſhe did reflect on her Father, in the manner aforeſaid, that ſhe did afterwards hang her ſelf, *&c.* not that I am ignorant, what indefatigable Pains were taken to ſtifle this Affair, either by wholly denying the Story among Strangers, or ſetting it in a more favourable Light, among ſome of the Neighbours. But Truth will always prevail. As to the Words ſpoken, I can produce the ſolemn Depoſitions of Mrs *Sarah Blitheman*, ſince dead (but there are Numbers now alive, that will atteſt her Words) of Mrs *Hodge*, Mrs *Eliz. Brownrigg*, &c. The Matter of Fact is too notorious to be deny'd. Beſides, a certain Reverend Clergyman will make *affidavit*, that the Father having apply'd

to

to him, concerning his Daughter's Burial, and being aſk'd, with a ſevere Rebuke, how he could be concern'd in ſo abominable a contrivance, made no Anſwer, but burſt into Tears: upon which the ſaid Clergyman, who knew the villainous Character both of the whole Family and of this Daughter in particular, caus'd her to be depriv'd of Chriſtian Burial, according to the Rubrick, in the Caſe of Suicide.

It has been objected, innocent Children could never have imagined ſuch a Story, had there not been ſomething at the bottom. But let theſe Objectors conſider, that Children, how innocent ſoever, may be flatter'd or frighten'd into any thing. Their tender Minds make them more eaſy to be wrought upon, being ſuſceptible either of good or bad Impreſſions, according to the Deſign of their Inſtructors. One Lye encouraged will ſoon produce another; and when they have been carefully inſtructed in the ſame Leſſon for a Month or two, and every Moment applauded for their Aptneſs to learn, when they have been taught to anſwer in ſuch a manner to all Queſtions, more punctually than to thoſe in the Catechiſm, and think it their Duty not to be daunted, is it any Wonder they ſhould perſiſt in the ſame Story, when they appear before a Judge? Beſides, I don't ſee how theſe Children can with any Propriety be call'd innocent. *Can a corrupt Tree produce good Fruit, or a bitter Fountain ſweet Waters?* Example is always more prevailing than Precept. But where both lend their mutual Aſſiſtance, how is it poſſible for a Child not to be tainted with the Contagion, who is not only tacitly encourag'd by vicious Examples,

but

but inſtructed in all kind of Debauchery? Is it probable, a Boy ſhould have the leaſt Reverence for an Oath, who ſcarce ever hears the Name of God mentioned by his Father, unleſs to blaſpheme it? Can Sobriety be learn'd in the Manſions of Riot and Drunkenneſs, or Juſtice in the Houſe of wrong and Robbery? There are Perſons of undeniable Credit, who have ſeen *Cale* guilty of ſuch Indecencies as are almoſt incredible in one of his Years. But to proceed with the Narrative.

The Juſtice had examin'd two or three other Children, but who they were, I was entirely ignorant; for their Depoſition, as Mr *J*— ſaid, being nothing material, we were not brought face to face, 'till my Tryal, when I found who theſe additional Evidences were. I had very little Knowledge either of the Children or their Parents, but was ſenſible, the latter were ſo miſerably poor, that a ſmall Bribe might tempt to any thing, and that one of them in particular had been turn'd out of a certain petty Office for vile Practices. I could not but think this very unjuſt Uſage: However, I made what Defence my Indignation would allow; tho' I ſaw it needleſs to inſiſt either upon my own Reputation or the infamous Character of the Accuſers, ſince Mr *J*. and Mr *W*— were my deadly Enemies, and provided I had been guilty, bore a greater Prejudice to my Perſon than to my Crime. What avails the calmeſt reaſoning upon thoſe who are obſtinately bent on Miſchief? 'Twas not only the deſire but the Intereſt of ſome Men that I ſhould be thought guilty. In ſuch Circumſtances none could expect much Favour. In a word, Mr *J*— gratify'd his Friend to the utmoſt by committing

committing me to the County Goal; tho' afterwards, when my Attorney expoſtulated with him, he had the Folly to own, he would not have ſent me there, but at the Requeſt of Mr *W*—. 'Tis neceſſary to remark here, that *V*—*r*, who by Mr *W*—'s Orders had waited in the Houſe during the whole Examination, was immediately put into my Office, which before he had been diſappointed of. He had juſt before given warning for the Houſe where he taught. Whether this was not a ſign of his being privy to the Contrivance, eſpecially as he had pitch'd upon no other Houſe in the Town, and my Character was then untouch'd, I leave the World to judge.

As to the particulars of my Examination before his *Worſhip*, what Queſtions he aſk'd, and in what manner I anſwer'd him, I cannot minutely inform the Reader. But there were enough then preſent, who well remember what I ſaid in my own Defence, and are ready to teſtify, that he not only perverted the Senſe of my Words; but falſly and deſignedly added to 'em, by ſwearing, I ſaid one Word that could be poſſibly deem'd a Confeſſion. Can any one imagine, I ſhould be ſo far infatuated, as to go voluntarily and accuſe my ſelf of the vileſt of Crimes, a Crime! odious even to corrupt Nature? That when I had ſo many Opportunities of abſconding, I ſhould chooſe to appear in a place, where I could expect no Mercy but what my Innocence procur'd? That I ſhould throw my ſelf into the hands of my Proſecutors, and be induſtrious in my own Ruin? No, the World is ſenſible, my Conduct would have been quite different, were I

conſcious,

conſcious there could have been the leaſt proof a-gainſt me.

My very Enemies do me the Juſtice to own, the thing would have had a better Aſpect, had the Depoſitions been taken before any other, beſide Mr *W*——'s Acquaintance. They were no Strangers to the Malice of this Man, and knew not how far the other might be influenced by him. I was indeed ſurpris'd at Mr *J*——'s new Dignity, being juſt then inform'd, that by making vaſt Intereſt, he had procured himſelf to be put into the Commiſſion within theſe few Months. He is certainly the beſt Judge of his own Circumſtances. But whatever induc'd him to interfere in this Matter, he muſt anſwer for it in a higher Court. I have not the Vanity to give Directions to my Superiors, but muſt beg leave juſt to mention the fatal Conſequence of putting thoſe into the Commiſſion, who have nothing to depend on but *a precarious Trade*, and whoſe low Circumſtances make them more liable to Temptations than other Men. I don't queſtion, but upon the Publication of this, *his Character* will be enquir'd into. I remember a Paſſage in *Barclay's Euphormio*, that will not be thought foreign to the Purpoſe. *Nihil publicæ utilitati magis infeſtum, quam cùm Magiſtratus, obliti nominis Deæ illius, cujus titulis & veluti vicariâ fide jus dicunt, ex magnitudine munerum, aut litigantium gratiâ, affectum componentes, ipſis legibus imponere non verentur. Non facilè dixerim, utra pernicies Rempublicam pejus infeſtet, aut cùm amicis, aut cùm pecuniæ indulgent. Quippe illa facilitas nihil familiaribus negandi, Judicis animum impietati aperit, per hos flagitiorum gradus ità aſſuefactum, ut excuſatis ſpecie*

Amicitiæ ſceleribus, poſtea ubicunque ſpes aut odium impulerit, peccare non dubitet, id tandem pro ſe auſus, quod primùm amicis indulſit. i. e. *There is no greater Curſe to the Public Weal, than when the* Magiſtrates, *unmindful of their Duty, and the ſolemn Truſt repos'd in them, are become ſo ſhameleſs, as, thro' the Influence of Bribes, or from Favour to particular Perſons, to pervert the Courſe of Juſtice, and impoſe on the very Laws themſelves. I cannot eaſily determine, which of the two Evils are moſt pernicious, either when they gratify their Acquaintance in their unreaſonable Requeſts, or their own avaritious Tempers. For this Facility of denying nothing to a Friend, encourages the Judge to further indirect Practices; his Mind being ſo harden'd by theſe ſeveral Steps and Degrees of Corruption, that in a little time he does not ſcruple (whereſoever Hope or Reſentment hurries him) to act thoſe Villainies upon his own Account, which at firſt he indulg'd in his Familiars, and excus'd under a Pretext of Friendſhip.* I leave the new made Juſtice to apply this to himſelf.

I think Mr *J*—— a very improper Perſon to deride any Man for his Poverty; and am amazed, that one who had ſomething meaner than an Hoſpital Education, *e ſterquilinio natus*, ſhould talk of Parentage; or rail ſo bitterly againſt another's Family, when the numerous Extravagancies, not to ſay the Villainies, of his own, are ſo very notorious. But Reflexions of this Nature are inſignificant. Perhaps he is not much to be blam'd for the Faults of his Children: but his Conſcience will ſurely condemn him for *bearing falſe Witneſs againſt his Neighbour*, and ruining one whom he too well knew to be innocent.

But

But to proceed. I had not been above a Day or two in Priſon before my Friends talk'd of bailing me out. This alarm'd Mr *W*——, who reported every where that my Caſe was not bailable, and intimidated ſome Gentlemen from ſerving me, by aggravating in a moſt villainous manner, what he had firſt invented. When he found this Method ineffectual, he hurried away to the Lord Chief Juſtice *Raymond*; but upon what Errand I know not. However, an *Habeas Corpus* was granted to carry me up to the *King's Bench Bar*, in order to be bail'd. Accordingly I went, but was unhappily diſappointed by being a little too late. This oblig'd me to wait another Opportunity, when I was a ſecond time diſappointed by the Length of a Cauſe, which laſted 'till ſix or ſeven at Night. Theſe were the ſole Reaſons that hinder'd me from being bail'd, (as the Keeper of the Goal well knows) and not, as Mr *W*—— reported, becauſe my Caſe was not bailable. However this malicious Enemy made an handle of it, and ſpread abroad a thouſand barbarous Stories during my Confinement, which he could ſcarce have dar'd to whiſper had I appear'd in public. In ſhort, when he found I could not make a perſonal Scrutiny into the Matter, he reſolv'd to loſe no Time, well knowing, if I ſhould chance to be acquitted, how ſeverely he himſelf might be puniſh'd. In purſuance to this Reſolution, the Children were freſh examin'd, and as ſuch Stories ſeldom loſe by Repetition, many aggravating Circumſtances added to their former Depoſition, ſome new Evidences produc'd, and the whole Scheme concerted with ſo many minute Particulars, that

thoſe who were ignorant of it's Springs and Motives, might have eaſily been deceived.

Notwithſtanding this, I can ſolemnly affirm, when my Tryal was coming on, I was never eaſier in my mind: for tho' I was charg'd with the moſt deteſtable of all Crimes, and knew by Experience what bitter Enemies I had to deal with, yet being aſſur'd I could eaſily prove it a Contrivance (provided my Witneſſes were ſuffer'd to ſpeak) I never queſtioned the Succeſs. I was indeed advis'd to traverſe the Indictment, or to remove it by a *Certiorari* into the *King's Bench*, where I flatter my ſelf, I ſhould have met with fairer treatment: but I could not bear to live ſo long in Suſpence. I now have reaſon to wiſh I had taken that Advice, for the Neglect of which I have ſuffer'd ſo much. Doubtleſs many vile Fellows are try'd every Seſſion at Juſtice-Hall in the *Old-Baily*; but why one Perſon's Caſe ſhould be weigh'd by another's I ſee no Reaſon. Whoever is convicted on a Tryal of one Hour, which ought to have taken up four or five, it may not be ſo much owing to the Badneſs of the Cauſe, as to the Partiality, or at leaſt to the hurry, of the Court.

In what manner the Charge was open'd, what Proof of the Accuſation was brought, and who appear'd to invalidate the Evidence againſt me, is perhaps unneceſſary to mention, becauſe my Tryal (as it is call'd) was publiſh'd in the Seſſion's Paper of *May* 1730. But I do my ſelf a very great wrong to call it a Tryal, ſince that Word ſuppoſes an impartial Hearing on either ſide, whereas I can appeal to every unprejudic'd Perſon then preſent, whether I had fair Uſage.

Why

Why were not my Witneſſes all call'd, and thoſe that were call'd, ſuffer'd to ſpeak the Truth? I know of none that came in my Behalf but Perſons of undoubted Reputation, who proteſted, they had never before ſeen, and ſcarce ever heard of ſuch Treatment in a Court of Juſtice. The Rev. Mr *Sharp* in particular (a Gentleman whoſe Probity was never queſtioned even by his Enemies) has frequently complain'd with ſome Indignation, that he was inſulted in ſo unprecedented a manner, that he had no room to ſpeak one Word. Mr *Blakeway*, alſo another of my moſt material Witneſſes, as to the Malice of Mr *W*——, made the very ſame Complaint. Why was one ſide heard with ſo much Patience, and the other brow-beaten, check'd, and intimidated? Why was Mr *R*—— ſo very tender of Mr *W*——'s Character, that he would not ſuffer me to mention a Syllable concerning him? Are not the Names of ſome worthy Gentlemen omitted, who appear'd to my Reputation? And thoſe wholly paſs'd over, who came to the vile Character both of the Children and their Parents? Are not the Names of ſome Boys ſet down with an *&c.* when there neither are, nor ever were ſuch in the World? Are the ſame Words the Juſtice ſpoke in Court, mentioned? Or is there one Syllable, how many I offer'd to bring, in order to prove him perjur'd? With what extraordinary Care is Mr *W*——'s Name concealed, who was not only the Promoter of the Proſecution, but the Contriver of the whole Affair? Was it not becauſe my Adverſaries were ſenſible, the very mention of his Name, would have given violent Cauſe of Suſpicion to all who knew the Malice

Malice and Villainy of this Man againſt me? In a word, nothing can be poſſibly more miſrepreſented; and as unfair, as unjuſt as my Uſage was in Court, I have ſtill further Cauſe to complain of the utmoſt Partiality, in the Publication of the Tryal. I gueſs what Inducement that Perſon, who took down the Minutes of my Tryal in Court, had, to miſrepreſent the thing ſo groſſly. He gets his Bread, it ſeems, by ſuch Practices. But let me tell him, it would be more honeſt and more reputable, even to carry Burdens for a Livelihood, than to murder the Character of others, purely to keep himſelf from ſtarving. Perhaps, he'll ſay, as I was convicted, he publiſh'd nothing but Matter of Fact. I was indeed convicted, and thoſe who were the Cauſe, will anſwer for it both to God and Man. But what then? Is there an Act of Parliament, or any Order of the Judges for printing every unfortunate Man's Caſe? For crying it about the Streets, and ſtabbing him ten thouſand times over with barbarous Reflexions in the News Papers? No—— I am inform'd, it is illegal, and that Mr *Payne*, the Proprietor of the Seſſions-Paper, has no Authority for what he does. Be that as it will, what Excuſe can this Hireling make for writing either more or leſs than the Truth? For omitting any Paſſages favourable to the Priſoner, or painting him blacker than he really is?

I once imagin'd, my Reputation alone would have quaſh'd whatever ſuch vile People could alledge. But Mr *R*—— was pleas'd to ſay, *Our Characters*

Characters were nothing to the Purpoſe *. Indeed he was ſo far right, with reſpect to the Intention of my Enemies: but if he meant, as I preſume he did, that it was nothing to the Matter I was charged with, he might as well have ſaid, that the Evidence of one, perjured a thouſand times, ought to be as much regarded, as that of the moſt conſcientious Man in the World. Perhaps Mr *R*—— might have ſome private Motive in this. Well might he make light of Characters, when he bore ſo vile a one himſelf. However, I did not ſo much inſiſt upon my own Character, ſince the beſt of Men are ſubject to Frailties; nor upon that of the Accuſers, ſince the worſt may ſometimes ſpeak Truth; as that the whole was a Plot of Mr *W*——, to gratify his own malicious Temper, and raiſe a Friend of his upon my Ruin. On this ſingle point the Merits of the whole Cauſe depended. But when I earneſtly inſiſted, ſome creditable Witneſſes might be called to the Proof; the forementioned worthy Gentleman, who had ſaid our Characters were nothing to the Purpoſe, was now pleaſed to affirm, Mr *W*—— *was entirely out of the Caſe.* I appeal to God and Man, whether this was fair Uſage. Had not this Mr *W*— endeavoured to blaſt my Reputation before, in the moſt villainous manner? Had he not been the Author of the blackeſt Calumnies, invented without the leaſt Foundation, meerly to ruin me? Had he not been forced to own himſelf a

* O vox indigna, non dicam Judice, ſed etiam Latrone, etiam Sicario. O ludibrio habitas fortunas miſerorum qui ſe Tribunalibus credunt! *Barc.*

Lyar in public? Had he not ſaid afterwards, he would do me an Injury, if poſſible, and betray'd the Rancour of his Heart, upon ſeveral Occaſions? Was there not undeniable Proof, that he and *V——r* had plotted together againſt me? Had not he privately inſtructed the Children in their Leſſons, and us'd a thouſand baſe Artifices with their Parents? was not the Warrant to apprehend me, procured by him, and he mentioned in it, as the ſole Accuſer? Had he not been induſtrious in ſpreading abroad the moſt barbarous Lies, during my Confinement, and even publiſhing them in the News Papers? This and ten times more I was ready to prove, and could ſuch a Man be poſſibly out of the Caſe?

If Mr *R*—— had no better Opinion of me for having always born the faireſt Character; or a worſe of the Accuſers, for having always born the vileſt; yet when I offer'd to prove it by ſuch inconteſtible Evidence, a malicious Proſecution, at leaſt he ought to have had ſome regard to that. I own, Mr *W*— ſwore nothing againſt me in Court, tho' he ſat there during the whole Tryal. But is that any Argument, he acted nothing privately? A Murderer might with as much propriety ſay, his Hand was out of the Caſe, and lay the Fault upon his Sword. When this wicked Man had contrived the Plot, and ſet all the Springs and Wheels of the Machine in Motion, 'twas his Intereſt to retire, and ſeem an indifferent Spectator. Obſerve a parallel Inſtance. *Ahab*, being diſappointed of *Naboth*'s Vineyard, hired two Sons of *Belial* to ſwear he had blaſphemed God and the King. The Traytor was convicted,

convicted, by impartial Judges no doubt, and ſentenc'd to be ſtoned to Death. I preſume, thoſe honeſt Magiſtrates *knew the Character both of* Naboth *and the Evidences againſt him:* but their Characters, it ſeems, were nothing to the purpoſe; and as for *Ahab*, he was *entirely out of the Caſe.* O Innocence! O Court of Juſtice! O Law and Equity! How true is that Obſervation made on a certain Country, that there are no where better Laws, and no Place in which they are worſe executed! Certainly if the Miniſters of Juſtice want Integrity, the miſerable People are ruin'd by what was deſign'd for their Preſervation. What tho' the Fountain-head be clear, if the Ducts and Channels are foul and muddy? The beſt of Laws once perverted, are nothing but Arts of Cruelty, Rapine, and Oppreſſion: and that Court, where the Judge may be biaſs'd on either ſide, is no better than a Butcher's Slaughter-houſe, with this wretched difference, that the Victims are murdered with a little more Ceremony.

I muſt confeſs, Rumour is generally a Liar, but if it may ever be credited, Mr *R*—— is the moſt improper Perſon in the World to ſit on any Tryals, but much more on Tryals of this Nature. It has been frequently objected to him in open Court, that he was too raſh and haſty, and had no more regard to the Life of a Priſoner than to that of a Dog. This, forſooth, was his public Character, and greatly became one in his Station. As to his private, there are ſome very odd Rumours; but to examine Particulars, would be like raking into ſome noiſome Dung-hill. I ſhall only make one common Remark, that ſome

Men moſt ſeverely puniſh that in others, which themſelves are moſt guilty of, hoping by this Method to deceive the Eyes of the World. Vile! deteſtable! abominable! exclaims this mercileſs Cenſor of others. But what neceſſity is there for ſo many cruel Taunts, and bitter Sarcaſms? This Peice of Artifice is now grown ſtale and threadbare, it being found by Experience, that the hotteſt Zealots are often the vileſt Hypocrites. Let the ſtrait laugh at the crooked, and the fair Complexion at the gloomy *Æthiopian*. Who can bear the ſeditious *Gracchi* complaining of Riots? or that notorious Robber, *Verres*, railing at Theives? or that Cut-throat *Milo*, exclaiming againſt Murderers? to hear the Traytor *Cataline* abuſing *Cethegus?* or *Clodius*, guilty both of Inceſt and Adultery, inveighing againſt thoſe who defile the Marriage-Bed? I appeal to Mr *R*—'s own Conſcience, whether he thought I deſerv'd ſo ſevere a Sentence; and whether he is not convinc'd I ſhould have met with more favourable Uſage from ſome indifferent Perſon, who would puniſh ſo enormous a Crime, purely from a Regard to Juſtice, and not with a View of ſcreening his own Villainies. But I need ſay no more. Heaven has heard my Prayers, and Vengeance has overtaken him. His Power is now at an end, and he can no longer gratify the fooliſh Ambition of trampling on the unfortunate, and making his fellow Creatures wretched. There is another late-memorable inſtance of a certain City Officer, noted for being ſevere againſt all kind of Immodeſty, particularly a certain Vice, too foul to name; when at the very ſame time, the Wretch himſelf, grown hoary in his Wickedneſs, was guilty

guilty of much viler Impurities than thoſe he puniſh'd in others. What his *Exit* was I need not relate. None was ever detected in a more ſhameful manner.

Having begg'd the Reader's Pardon for this Digreſſion, if it may be call'd ſo, I ſhall proceed with the Narrative. When my Siſter offer'd to depoſe what ſhe knew, Mr *R*—— objected, that truly ſhe was Siſter to the Priſoner, and would not hear her; tho' at the ſame time the Depoſition of *Ham*, one of the Boy's Father's, was admitted without any Scruple. Was this Law or Juſtice? Shall the Father's Oath be admitted for a Son, and not that of a Siſter for a Brother? eſpecially as the Character of the one ſo prodigiouſly counterpois'd the other's? Some Perſons who heard my Examination before the Juſtice, could not but take notice, how many particulars were in the Indictment, more than had been depos'd before his Worſhip. Had this a good Aſpect? Why were not all the Children brought before my Face at firſt? Was Mr *W*—— afraid ſuch a Number would be found in ſome Contradiction? Or had he not as yet fully inſtructed theſe additional Evidences? Why did not the two chief Evidences bring their whole Accuſation at once, when there was ſo good an Opportunity? Were the particulars of this black Affair ſo very numerous, that they requir'd a Month after I was in Priſon, to recollect them all? I ſhall not mention the ſmall Preſents given to the Children, nor the frequent Treats to their Parents, both when I went to *Weſtminſter*, and juſt before the Tryal.

None, when they maturely conſider this, will much wonder the Boys were ſo circumſtantial. It made the Account ſeem more probable, and ſerv'd more ſpeciouſly to deceive the Eyes of the World. Their Tutors had Time ſufficient to have inſtructed them in a much longer Story. Nor will any Man of Senſe be ſurpriſed at the Anſwers they gave, when the Judge aſk'd them whether they knew the nature of an Oath; ſince 'tis common to hear young Children make proper Reſponſes to the Queſtions in their Catechiſm: but that they are capable of diſtinguiſhing between right and wrong, or acquainted with the Nature and Duties of Religion, none will imagine. They only ſpeak by rote, juſt as they are taught. Beſides, there was an officious Attendant plac'd behind every one, to ſuggeſt Words, for fear they ſhould commit any Miſtake, or faulter in their Replies. This was obſerv'd by Mr *Sharp*, Mr *Johnſon*, Mr *Hills*, &c. the former of which Gentlemen complain'd of this Peice of Villainy in open Court.

Now I conceive, an Offence of this Nature ought to have had the ſtrongeſt Proof. The meer Evidence of ſuch Children (had they never been tamper'd with) would have been unſatisfactory to the Court: but Mr *R*—— in his great Wiſdom, was pleas'd to ſay, he did not ſo much regard the Depoſition of the Boys, as what their Parents ſaid in Confirmation of it. Now how frivolous and little material this was, let the Reader judge. They could affirm nothing on their own perſonal Knowledge, but took all on truſt, from a ſecond, or a third hand. One Boy told another——That other told his Father. Why did not

not the Father himſelf ſearch and examine the Boy? No, it was not his Intereſt to ſeem convinc'd, as the Reader may gather from the following Paſſage. When this Story was firſt ſpread, a certain Gentlewoman, without the leaſt Knowledge of mine, went to the Mother of *Hann*, and aſking her what was the ground of this Clamour, the other anſwer'd, *She could not tell.* Then the Boy was ſent for, and being interrogated what his Maſter had done to him, reply'd, *he has done nothing.* Upon which, the Gentlewoman cry'd, is it reaſonable a Man ſhould loſe his Reputation for nothing? To this the Mother reply'd, Mrs *Allen will tear the Houſe down about our Ears, if we don't be Evidences.* At hearing this ſtrange Expreſſion, the other inſiſted a Surgeon might be ſent for, and nam'd Mr *William Martin*, of *Shadwell.* But the Mother ſeem'd entirely averſe to that Propoſal, crying, *God forbid, my Child has got no harm*; and in ſhort, to ſtifle the Matter, ſent him directly to the School again, from which, by his Father's Order, he had ſome time abſented himſelf. This Paſſage was ſworn to in Court, and the Father had nothing to object againſt the Truth. What the Reaſon was of changing their Tone ſo ſoon, and charging me with ſuch vile Practices, when at firſt they could accuſe me of nothing, is too palpable. Where there is Wealth and power to tempt, and vicious Poverty to be tempted, none can be ſurpris'd at things of this Nature. Had theſe Parents believ'd me guilty, was it not amazing, they ſhould ſend their Children to School again? Was it not very extraordinary, I ſhould make ſuch an Attempt, without ſo much as giving a

caution

caution not to mention it? Could I be ignorant they would talk among themſelves, and ſome Way or other betray me? A guilty Conſcience is always timerous, and no ſooner is a villainous Action committed, but all endeavours are us'd to conceal it. But I was ſo far from abſconding, as I had opportunities enough, or ſtriving to ſtifle the Matter, that I took indefatigable pains to convince my very Enemies, I was neither aſhamed nor afraid of ſtanding the ſevereſt Scrutiny. *I muſt here ſubjoin, that the abovementioned Mrs* Allen *is my good Friend Mr* W——'s *Acquaintance, and Mother to one of the additional Evidences.*

Indeed the whole Evidence, plauſible and circumſtantial as it was, would have been deem'd invalid, had not Mr J——, to clench the matter, ſtarted up and ſwore, he heard me confeſs, *I was ſorry for what I had done, but hop'd it would not amount to a Fact.* Theſe are the very Words he us'd in Court. For what Reaſon they are omitted in the Seſſions-Paper, he knows beſt. 'Tis there mention'd, I confeſs'd, *what I had done was for the Promotion of my Studies.* Now theſe two Expreſſions are widely different. If I had us'd both, why were not both ſet down? No, there was deſign in this. He well knew, there were enough could prove the Falſity of either: but as the firſt was too groſs and palpable, he took care to leave it out. In ſhort the whole Neighbourhood acquitted me of the Confeſſion, being aſtoniſh'd, how Mr J—— could be ſo ſhameleſs as to mention it. Whether ſo great a Man could be influenc'd by a pitiful Bribe, I dare not determine. But whatever Inducements he had, either to ſerve himſelf or oblige a Friend, I can bring

bring above twelve Persons, at least of equal Credit with his Worship, who heard every word that pass'd at my Examination, and are ready to take their Oath, that his Deposition was utterly false, that I resolutely deny'd the Charge, and persisted in my own Innocence. To convince the World, I do not wrong him, I appeal to Mr *James Linsey*, of *Ratcliff*, the very Officer that brought the Warrant from Mr *J*—— and whom he subpœna'd as a Witness against me. This Man, a rigid Dissenter, and my Enemy upon various Accounts, solemnly affirm'd to above twenty Persons, that had he been call'd in Court, he must have prov'd Mr *J*—— perjur'd.

Some Persons object, I made a poor Defence, and spoke too little: others, that I spoke too much. Some that I was hot, and others too calm. What Inadvertencies I then committed, I do not well remember: but I am sensible I was not sufficiently on my guard. And indeed, how I could possibly defend my self better, under so many Discouragements, I cannot see. Besides, I depended in a great Measure on the Council, which made me less arm'd than otherwise I might have been. Be that as it will, undoubtedly the charitable and considerate part of Mankind will make some Allowances for my long Confinement in a damp noisome Prison, and to the cruel Usage and Oppression of the Goaler, which had so greatly dispirited me, and impair'd my Vigour both of Body and Mind. For that inexpressible Grief and Indignation I laboured under, on being charged with such Crimes, by such vile Persons, and before so numerous an Assembly. For the unexpected Treatment I met with, and the numerous

rous Inſults and Reflexions caſt upon my Friends by Mr *R*—— himſelf. Oppreſſion will make a wiſe man mad: well therefore might one ſo inconſiderable, want a Preſence of Mind on ſuch an occaſion, and being wholly unacquainted with Law, and ignorant in what manner the Indictment would be drawn, or what particulars laid to his Charge, be unprepar'd to anſwer every Objection. A Man may be in as juſt Poſſeſſion of the Truth, as of a Fort or Caſtle, and yet incapable of defending either. Does not a good Cauſe very often ſuffer, as much through the Weakneſs of the Defendant, as the Corruption of the Judge? Yet notwithſtanding, Truth ſtill continues the ſame, in ſpight of a thouſand Perjuries, or all the little Artifices of Cunning and Sophiſtry. A weak Defence, or even no Defence at all, is not always an infallible ſign of Guilt, ſince there is an Inſtance, where Innocence it ſelf, being charg'd with notorious Lies and Calumnies, ſtood ſilent, before his mercileſs Accuſers.

But what could I poſſibly do or ſay more than I did, towards clearing my ſelf? I not only appeal'd to God and my own Conſcience, to the unſpotted Character I had always born, to that innate Modeſty I had been always remarkable for, to the ſober and reputable Company I always convers'd with, but to my very Enemies who could not but acknowledge, that my Life had been unblamable. I not only appeal'd to the Improbability of the thing, but to the very vile Character of the Accuſers, and to the uncommon Malice and Villainy of Mr *W*—— the Contriver of the whole Scheme. But all this

prov'd

prov'd ineffectual. Had I been the vileſt Caitiff breathing, I could not have been more cruelly treated. Is there one Severity the Law could poſſibly inflict, which I have not undergone? What ſharper Puniſhment remain'd except Death? Tho' ſurely, to a generous Mind, thoſe numberleſs Indignities I receiv'd, were more bitter than Death itſelf.

In all Ages, the Cunning of the Serpent has prevail'd beyond the Innocence of the Dove. Yet this wicked Conſpiracy was not carry'd on with ſo much Secrecy, but that even Strangers and indifferent Perſons took notice, how prodigiouſly I was abus'd. In particular, a certain Gentlewoman, who ſat in Court, near Mr *W*— as a meer Spectator, and had never ſeen or heard of me before, obſerv'd him talking to the Clerk of the Company, juſt before the Tryal began. Liſtning to their Diſcourſe, which ſhe imagin'd to be of indifferent Matters, ſhe heard Mr *W*— earneſtly enquire, where the Boys were. The Clerk reply'd, they will be here preſently: to which the other immediately ſubjoin'd, *Go, and beſure get them all together; and whatever you do, take care to keep them all in one and the ſame Story. I warrant you, we ſhall do his buſineſs now.* After this they whiſper'd. She, mov'd with Indignation at ſuch unparallell'd Villainy, was going three or four times to mention this Paſſage in Court, with ſome other ſuſpicious Expreſſions ſhe had heard; but finding by the unaccountable Uſage I met with, it would be of no ſignification, was yet ſo good as to wait 'till the Tryal was over, and then came in Perſon to inform me. Her Name is *Mary Jenkins*,

and ſhe is ready to ſwear both to the Words and the Perſons. Some others alſo heard Words to the ſame purpoſe, particularly a worthy Clergyman, who will atteſt the Truth, upon a proper Occaſion, to the Confuſion of Mr *W*—. At the ſame time came one of the *Coopers* Company, who reſides near *Tower-ſtreet*, and expreſs'd his Concern at my Misfortune in the following Terms: *I am heartily ſorry things have been carried ſo far. I am afraid it was made a Party Cauſe. God forgive Mr* W——. Indeed theſe were not his Sentiments only, but of many others in Court, and of ſome who were upon the Bench, particularly of a certain Alderman, and two other noted Gentlemen, who, as I am very credibly informed, did affirm, *They could ſafely ſwear it was nothing but a Party Cauſe, and that the —— was pack'd.*

O Scandal to Religion! O reproach to Law! Moſt unheard of Villainy! Had this Man no other Way of expreſſing his Loyalty, but by ſuborning falſe Witneſſes? No other proof of his Affection to the Government, but by ruining the Innocent, and damning himſelf? But why do I talk of Loyalty or Affection? A Man of ſuch vile Principles can be a Friend to no Government at all: Nor can any one doubt, but that upon the leaſt turn of Affairs, he would be the firſt to curſe his preſenr Majeſty, if he ſhould order him to be proſecuted with that Severity, which ſo ſhameleſs and barefac'd a Perjury deſerves. Perjury! that can never be painted as foul and ugly as it really is: a Practice! that, above all others, makes the virtuous mourn, and cheriſhes Vice and Immorality: that mocks God upon

upon his Throne, and cries aloud to Heaven for ſpeedy Vengeance. But I need ſay no more. Mr *W*—— is detected: and all the honeſt and conſcientious of his own Party are now aſham'd to own him.

Whoever will give himſelf the Trouble of peruſing that ſcandalous Account of my Tryal in the Seſſions-Paper, cannot but obſerve how carefully the Name of Mr *W*—— is omitted, and in particular at the latter end, how 'tis wrote Mr —— with a Scratch. A guilty Conſcience needs no Accuſer. 'Tis more than a thouſand Witneſſes. Well indeed might he be aſham'd of ſeeing his Name mentioned upon ſo vile an occaſion. Well might he endeavour to ſhun the Cenſures of the World, and to have ſo impious a Contrivance buried, if poſſible, in eternal Oblivion. I my ſelf, by ſeeing the Printer with a Trifle, might have had the very ſame Favour. But as no Perſon of the leaſt Reputation either had, or could juſtly accuſe me of a villainous Action, I diſdain'd to conceal a Name, which I never had yet Cauſe to be aſham'd of. 'Tis for ſuch as Mr *W*—— to lurk in Holes and Corners, dark as their own gloomy Diſpoſition. For my part, I always ſtrove that the Matter, (foul and heinous as it was repreſented) might be made as public as poſſible; that my Enemies might ſee, I was not afraid of the ſevereſt Scrutiny into my Life and Converſation. Perhaps he thought, by this poor Subterfuge, to eſcape all further Notice; and that Tears and Groans were the only Aſylum for the oppreſſed. But both God and Man have detected him, and partly reveng'd my Cauſe. I do not rejoice at his Mis-

fortunes. May he live to repent, and enjoy a more Chriſtian Temper of Mind.

Thoſe, who wonder why Mr *W*— ſhould lay this Crime to my Charge, more than any other, do not conſider, that he might have caus'd Treaſon, Robbery, Murder, *&c.* to be ſworn againſt me, with as much Probability. Are there not Evidences to be hir'd by the Day, who get their Living by Perjury, and venture Damnation for a Trifle? Is it any Novelty to ſee either the guilty acquitted, or the innocent condemn'd? What is there ſo improbable, which Malice will not invent, eſpecially to ſerve a Turn? Why ſhould he ſcruple more at this, than at many other villainous Aſperſions, he had been the ſole Author of? His former Calumnies were acknowledg'd by himſelf, entirely falſe and groundleſs: nor could he produce any one Inſtance of my ill Conduct, without proving himſelf a Slanderer and a Lyar. But what? will Malice, more relentleſs than Death, be tir'd, becauſe it has been often defeated? No——he once more took his ſtand, and ſhot theſe envenom'd Arrows, that wounded my Reputation, e'er I knew from what hand they came. I preſume he firſt took the hint from thoſe vileſt of Miſcreants, who, when all Methods of gaining a diſhoneſt Livelihood fail, threaten to ſwear Sodomitical Practices againſt thoſe they meet, in order to extort Money. Indeed Want could not be his Inducement. But is that a ſtronger Motive than blind uncharitable Prejudice, than furious Revenge, and inveterate Malice? I am ſenſible, if he could at firſt have ruin'd my Fortune, without blaſting my Character, 'twould have been ſufficient. But

he

he found it impoſſible to ruin the one, without deſtroying the other. He had flattered himſelf, that the very Rumour would have hinder'd me from appearing in public, and by that means have given the World juſt Cauſe of Suſpicion: But when he ſaw me ſtand my ground, with a Reſolution natural to Innocence, he began to dread the Conſequence, and then acted his Part more openly for his own Security.

Whether the Worſhipful Company were at the Charge of the Proſecution, I could never learn. Not that I am inſenſible, how greatly they were incens'd againſt me, by the means of Mr *W*—; and indeed had there been the leaſt proof of my Guilt, the ſharpeſt Severities would have been too gentle. But whether they had any other Inducement, beſides the Deteſtation of the Fact I was charg'd with, is worth Enquiry. I muſt only beg leave to aſſert, in my own Defence, that the Report of my being concern'd in a Treatiſe, entituled, *The grievous Abuſe of Charitable Foundations*, was entirely groundleſs. 'Twas always my Opinion that this Company, in the Adminiſtration of the Charities committed to their Charge, ſhow'd as much Honeſty and Integrity as moſt others.

I muſt confeſs, I was fill'd with inexpreſſible Rage and Indignation, to ſee the Company's Clerk ſo very ſtrenuous againſt me; ſince he too well knew, how unjuſt the Proſecution was, and could, if he had produc'd ſome Letters in his Cuſtody, or only mentioned the villainous Expreſſions of Mr *W*—, ſo eaſily have clear'd me. But it ſeems, his Intereſt lay at ſtake, and he dar'd not turn back, or diſoblige my Enemies,

having

having been but juſt elected into his Office himſelf. Beſides, who knows but he might have this other Motive? he had drain'd me of ſeveral Sums, under various Arts and Pretences; ſome forſooth as cuſtomary Fees for Entrance; ſome for preſenting the Petition; ſome for drawing the Bond: ſome for a uſual Treat, *&c.* In ſhort, I expreſs'd my Reſentment in very warm Terms, telling him, as the Place itſelf was ſuch a Trifle, I thought it unjuſt in him to require as much as I ſhould get by it in almoſt half a Year; that I had been at conſiderable Charge in obtaining it, and was afraid it would not anſwer my Expectations; that he had us'd me very unhandſomely, and I muſt, in Juſtice to myſelf, acquaint Sir *John G——r* with his Impoſitions. This Clerk is now no more, and I would be as favourable to his Memory as poſſible. Thus much I was obliged to ſay, in my own Vindication. Undoubtedly 'twas very cruel in him, to triumph as he did in my Deſtruction. But obſerve how remarkable the Hand of Providence appears in this Affair; that one who had ſo barbarouſly deſtroy'd the Hopes of another, ſhould be ſo unexpectedly blaſted in his own.

In this Place it will not be impertinent to make a curſory Remark. It has been uſual, on Convictions of this Nature, beſides the Pillory, Fine, and Impriſonment, to order the Criminal to find Security for his good Behaviour, which is not the leaſt ſhameful part of the Puniſhment. But this was omitted in my Sentence, becauſe, I preſume, the Court thought my whole Life and Converſation render'd ſuch a Caution needleſs. This one Paſſage will confute the numerous Aſperſions

perſions rais'd on me, during my Confinement, and detect the prodigious Malice of Mr *W*——, who had the Villainy to report, I had been expell'd the Univerſity for Practices of the ſame Nature: Tho' at the ſame time this wicked Man knew, I had produc'd an authentic Certificate of my good Behaviour at *Cambridge*; and that certain Gentlemen, being unſatisfy'd with that, had themſelves taken the trouble of ſending to know the Truth, and were anſwer'd, I bore an excellent Character. I appeal to the original Letters in the Hands of Sir *John G—r*, and Mr *L—y*, dated not much above a Month before my Misfortune. I need not ask why this Paſſage, ſo neceſſary towards rendring me perfectly odious, was not mention'd in Court, ſince the World will of courſe imagine, that the bittereſt of my Enemies dar'd not ſtart ſo barefac'd a Lye there, where almoſt every one could have detected them.

But in all other Places, they have ſhot a thouſand Arrows at random, and taken incredible Pains to render all Endeavours of clearing my ſelf ineffectual. They were too ſenſible, if the Vizzard were once pull'd of, that they muſt appear as odious in the Eyes of Men, as they did already, in the Sight of that Being, who cannot be deceiv'd. In ſhort, when it was firſt whiſper'd abroad, many Months ago, that I deſign'd to publiſh my Caſe, they were alarm'd, and thunderſtruck. No Artifices were unattempted, in order to deter me, particularly a Number of anonymous Letters, left at the Priſon, ſome of which ſeem'd to threaten my Life, if I did not deſiſt. Three of theſe Letters being more remarkable

markable than the reſt, are here tranſcrib'd for the Reader's Satisfaction.

Sir,

I Underſtand you continually talk, how unjuſtly you have been us'd. If you value yourſelf, I wonld not have you inſiſt on this, for it may be of bad Conſequence to you. The Law has thought you guilty, and that is ſufficient. I hear you deſign to expoſe ſomebody, but do it at your own Peril. As ſoon as ever you do any thing of this kind, ſome too wealthy and powerful for you, are determin'd to ruin you to all Intents and Purpoſes.

Mr. Broadrik

WOnder at your impidence to thretten now you are in Hold. But there is other ways to tame your proud Stomak. Never was more rejoict in my life, ſeeing you in the Pillery, for the ſake of the old Roge your Father. You may talk and write as long as you will, but none will not beleve a word you can ſay, and you ſhall never get your repitation again. Take Care who you rail at and be contented as you are. For if you get out from Newgate, we can lay you faſter then ever.

Sir,

IF you'll take Council, 'twill be more for your intereſt to let the Matter drop. If you publiſh any thing, to expoſe others, 'twill only make the thing more public. You have no room to talk of being wrong'd, when the Juſtice ſwore, you made a Confeſſion

feſſion to him, and own'd your ſelf guilty: and it has been in the News Papers, that you ſent a Petition to the King, in which you begged pardon for your firſt offenſe. So that you plainly ſee, all endeavours to clear your ſelf are in vain, for the World is prejudic'd againſt you. If you perſiſt, 'twill only further exaſperate ſome perſons to your utter Deſtruction.

None can juſtly object, theſe Letters are fictitious, ſince they were brought me at ſuch a time, when I was ſo extremely indiſpoſed, that I was incapable of writing, or even of thinking. Beſides, I can not only produce the Originals, but the Perſon that received them. The firſt was dated, *July* 27. 1730. The two others came a few Days after, without any date. If I am not greatly miſtaken in the ſecond Letter, I diſcern, by the Uncouthneſs both of Stile and Character, my faſt Friend Mr *W*——, who in all his Stratagems, has ſhown himſelf both Aſs and Serpent, ſtupid and venemous. But there is another circumſtance, that more fully confirms me in this Surmiſe, tho' it happen'd two Months before the Receipt of this Letter. Soon after the Tryal, ſome Friends of mine, having accidentally met the ſaid *W*——, and exchang'd ſome hard Words, he ſwore, in the hearing of Mrs *Johnſon*, Mr *Hills*, &c. *That if I got out from Newgate, he would lay me faſter than ever*; the very Expreſſion at the latter end of this Letter, which Mrs *Johnſon* remember'd as ſoon as ever ſhe ſaw it. The firſt and third are both from the ſame Hand, and if Circumſtances may be depended upon, the Author could be none but Mr *J*——. 'Tis well known, how inſtrumental he had been

in my Ruin; what uncommon Pains he took to appear againſt me, at the Judge's Chambers, at *Weſtminſter-Hall*, and the *Old-Bailey*; how barbarouſly he had afterwards inſulted me at *Ratcliff*, not only ſpiriting up the Populace, but aſſaulting me himſelf; and what Satisfaction he expreſſed at all my Misfortunes. Yet this very Man, when he heard of my Reſolution to vindicate my ſelf by writing, not only ſent Meſſengers, but frequently came in Perſon to the Priſon (*incognito*, as he thought) enquiring with more than ordinary Concern and Terror of Mind, whether I was yet out, when I expected my Liberty, whether I was able to pay the Fine, or any one would pay it for me, whether I expreſs'd any Signs of Revenge, and what I deſign'd to do. In ſhort, he came ſo often on theſe Errands, (that ſeem'd very frivolous and impertinent, as well they might, to diſintereſted Perſons) that at laſt he got himſelf affronted. None will imagine, he took this Trouble, meerly to gratify an uſeleſs Curioſity, or out of any Regard to my Welfare, or Pity for my Sufferings. No— the Deſign was too palpable. He was conſcious to himſelf, how greatly I had been wrong'd, and that I ſhould leave nothing unattempted to right my ſelf. He knew I was determin'd, when Health and Liberty would permit, to paint the Malice, Contrivance, and Perjury of my Enemies, and how much his own Character would be call'd in queſtion by it. 'Tis natural to dread thoſe whom we have injur'd. This was the Motive of his coming ſo often to the Priſon, ſo ſollicitouſly enquiring after one whom he mortally hated, and ſending me ſuch villainous Meſſages

and

and Letters. Indeed in this he did but follow the then modiſh Cuſtom of thoſe Ruffians, who diſpers'd abroad Letters with Menaces of Fire and Sword, if ſuch Sums were not depoſited in the Places ſpecify'd. Perhaps he flatter'd himſelf that any thing would intimidate a Wretch in my melancholy Circumſtances, ſo caſt down and diſpirited with continual Oppreſſion. But let him remember, there is no one ſo contemptible, but he may find means to revenge himſelf. Yes, I have found means: but they are ſuch as I can anſwer both to God, the World, and my own Conſcience. 'Tis not by barbarous Lies and malicious Calumnies; 'tis not by wilful Perjury and ſuborning falſe Witneſſes; 'tis not by ſhooting Arrows in the dark, and threatning to murder my Adverſaries: but by laying open to the World, in the moſt candid and impartial manner, the horrible Abuſes I have ſuffer'd, that I ſhall endeavour to right my much injur'd Character.

The Reader muſt ſee in a moment the drift of the abovemention'd Letters: but the laſt, as it carries the moſt Malice, deſerves the moſt Notice. It ſays, the World is prejudic'd againſt me: and indeed, were the Reaſons alledged true, it would have juſt Cauſe; as, that I confeſs'd not only to the Juſtice, but acknowledg'd my Guilt, in a Petition, to His Majeſty. The former, I believe, needs no further Confutation. The Effrontery and Villainy of that Aſperſion has been acknowledged on all ſides, even by Mr J——'s himſelf. Whether the latter be true, let the Public judge from the enſuing Copy of the Petition, which was ſign'd by ſome Perſons of Diſtinction, and carry'd to Court by a Lady. It fail'd of the deſir'd Succeſs, becauſe my Enemies

had us'd their utmoſt Intereſt to bring me to the ignominious Puniſhment I was ſentenc'd to, before His Majeſty ſaw it, or could be inform'd of my Caſe, and thereupon I ſlacken'd in my Application. A former Petition had been preſented to the Honourable Mr Baron *Thompſon*, wherein I implor'd not ſo much for Mercy as Juſtice. But his Lordſhip, unable to redreſs my Grievances, advis'd me to apply to the King, which I did in the following Terms.

To the King's moſt Sacred Majeſty.

The humble Petition of ISAAC BRODERICK

Sheweth

THAT your Majeſty's Petitioner was convicted of an Aſſault with Intent to commit the deteſtable Sin of Sodomy, on the Evidence of two Boys and their Parents, who were remarkable for not only being in very miſerable Circumſtances, but of a moſt vile and infamous Character. That the Boys were too young to know the Nature and Solemnity of an Oath; and if they had known, would ſcarce have ſcrupled at Perjury, being not only encouraged by the vicious Example of their Parents, but upon this occaſion, deſignedly inſtructed in their Leſſons, as many Perſons of undeniable Credit, offer'd to prove. That all his Witneſſes were not call'd, and thoſe that were call'd, not ſuffer'd to ſpeak the Truth. That Inſtructors were plac'd behind the Boys, to ſuggeſt Words, when they faulter'd. That the whole was a plain Conſpiracy of wicked and deſigning Men, to blaſt his Reputation, and to build another Perſon's Fortune upon

his

his Ruin. That your Majeſty's Petitioner is ready to undergo the ſevereſt Puniſhment the Law can inflict, if he does not prove much more than he has mention'd in the Premiſes, which yet are ſufficient to ſhow, that a blacker Scene of Villainy has not been acted for this laſt Age. Your Majeſty's moſt injur'd Petitioner therefore throws himſelf at your ſacred Majeſty's Feet, imploring that Juſtice, which renders your Majeſty the Darling of your People. His Wrongs cry aloud for Vengeance, and can be redreſs'd by none but the Vicegerent of that Almighty Being, whoſe Name has been ſo horribly profan'd, upon this vile occaſion.

I make no Reflexion on the Jury for their Verdict. If they have but Integrity and common Underſtanding, 'tis ſufficient. It is not expected, they ſhould have the Penetration of Angels. Perhaps they believ'd the Evidence againſt me, and perhaps not. 'Tis true, ſome were of the Company: but I thought fit to make no Objection, as I might have done, as I was adviſ'd to do, and, as I ſince find, I ought to have done. All that I remark at preſent, is, the uncommon Joy and Satisfaction Mr *W*—— expreſs'd, when he ſaw me caſt. Indeed on the Day of my Examination at *Shadwell*, he wept very plentifully before ſome of the Company, pretending an extraordinary Trouble for ſo ſad an Accident. But the Moment they were gone, he triumph'd and exulted with ſuch an Exceſs of Joy, that every one preſent took notice of his villainous Hypocriſie. Certainly the World will ſcarce have a better Opinion of this Man, when it is acquainted, he is a Reformer of Manners, a mercileſs Cenſor of the Failings of others, and a

Frequenter

Frequenter of Lectures. Oh! my God! deliver me from every Villain, but eſpecially the religious Villain, who acts more enormous Crimes under a ſad demure Countenance, and the external Robe of Sanctity, than the moſt notorious Debauchee ever was guilty of in public. Theſe are ſuch that put Virtue out of Countenance, and make Religion itſelf contemptible; who can ſtab their Neighbour with pious Ejaculations in their Mouths, and ſpeak Words ſmoother than Oil, whilſt their Hearts are full of curſing and Bitterneſs.

Any one of the leaſt Humanity would have thought, the numberleſs Inſults and the very cruel Uſage I had receiv'd, the great Expence I had been at, even to the utter Ruin of my Fortune, the languiſhing State of Health I labour'd under, and the diſmal Place where I was confin'd, deſtitute of all the Conveniencies of Life, would have glutted the moſt implacable Malice. But inſtead of pouring Balm into my Wounds, Mr *W*—— was reſolv'd to tear them open afreſh, and to render my Confinement as uncomfortable as poſſible. The ſame venemous Tongue, that had ſo often blaſted my good name before, reported, *I had laid violent Hands on myſelf.* The ſame Malice, that had ſo often expos'd me in the Papers, took care to publiſh this barbarous Aſperſion alſo; which would have gained Credit, had not ſo many undeceiv'd themſelves, by ocular Inſpection. I don't queſtion, but he would have rejoic'd, had the Rumour been true; like that bloody *Italian*, who could not be content with the bare ſtabbing of his Enemy, without murdering both Soul and Body at once, 'Tis true, I have been long a Stranger to the Voice

Voice of Comfort, and ſuffer'd enough to make me fly for Refuge even to the Grave: yet I never ſo far loſt all ſenſe of Religion, as to venture on Damnation, juſt to gratify a ſullen Fit of Melancholy. I have ſtill that Calmneſs of Mind, which is inſeparable from a good Conſcience, to ſupport me under the heavieſt of all Calamities: whilſt thoſe, who were inſtrumental in my Ruin, not only felt unaccountable Horrors, even whilſt they were enjoying the Price of their Iniquities, but perhaps now want that Mercy in another World, which was deny'd to me in this. Well indeed would it be for ſome Perſons, were I no more. 'Twould have been Wiſdom in my Adverſaries to cruſh in pieces a Wretch, once under foot; for Fear he ſhould recover Strength, and riſe again to their Confuſion. Doubtleſs, unleſs they think me, I will not ſay of the moſt forgiving, but of the moſt ſtupid Temper in the World, they will ſcarce expect to eſcape the Hands of Juſtice: and in ſhort, I ſhould partly deſerve the vile Uſage I have met with, were I not to uſe my utmoſt Efforts to bring the Authors to condign Puniſhment. I have been but a ſhort Time at Liberty, and yet ſeveral ſecret Attempts have been made on my Life: but I truſt, good Providence, in which I have always repos'd my Confidence, will ſtill protect me.

I think every Circumſtance, that preceded my ſtanding, was ſufficiently barbarous, without any freſh Aggravations from Mr *J*——. Was I not taken unprovided in the Morning, and hurry'd away undreſt as I was, being at the ſame time dangerouſly ill of a Fever, as Dr *Robinſon* certify'd under his hand to the Sheriff? Add to this

the

bitter Revilings of a numerous Multitude, purpoſely alarm'd from all Quarters.

Was it not ſufficient Torture, for one in ſo weak a State of Health, to ſtand ſo long and in ſo ignominious a manner, expos'd to the Eyes and Cenſures of thouſands, who, tho' Strangers both to my Perſon and Caſe, would be ſure to judge on the uncharitable Side? Was it not ſufficient to be left to the Mercy of the Populace, ſeldom noted for over much Clemency in ſuch Caſes, without exaſperating their innate Brutiſhneſs? No, my Enemies thought otherwiſe, particularly Mr *J*——, who came in Perſon, with his Son, at the head of an outrageous Mob, and encouraged them, by his own Example to aſſault and wound me. O Chriſtianity! Well may'ſt thou be thought a meer Name. Was it for this he made ſuch Intereſt to get into the Commiſſion? Was this the uſe he made of his Authority? I will not aſk where was his Chriſtianity, or even his Humanity, but where was his common Prudence, in acting ſo illegally. I now find he is as great a Stranger to Law, as to the gentle Precepts of the Goſpel. Could he imagine, his new Honour would licence him to act ſo riotouſly? Or, were I of ſo meek a Temper, as to put up theſe Outrages without the leaſt Reſentment, yet could he expect to eſcape the Cenſures of others? I don't queſtion, but by this time his Superiors are acquainted with his Behaviour, and will take due Care no longer to diſhonour an Office of ſuch Truſt, by putting it into the Hands of thoſe who live by others Misfortunes, and grow fat upon the Miſeries of the People.

I muſt

I muſt here beg leave to mention the general Treatment of thoſe who ſtand in the Pillory. I preſume, the deſign of the Law, in ſuch Caſes, is, merely to expoſe the Perſon: and that of it ſelf is Torture enough to a generous Mind. But the Populace think the Sentence too favourable; nor muſt the unhappy Creature exalted to that vile Eminence, hope to eſcape their Severities. In ſhort, there are ſome Inſtances where the Criminal has dy'd on the Spot, being bruiſed and wounded from Head to Foot, poiſon'd with Stench, and ſtifled with an inſupportable Load of Filth. Law indeed is ſuppos'd to be founded on Reaſon and Equity, and to ſuit the Puniſhment to the Nature of the Offence. But of what ſignification is that Sentence, which dooms to the Whip, if the Criminal muſt be torn with Scorpions? which dooms to a meer Expoſition, if Wounds and Death muſt be the Conſequence. For God's ſake, let the Malefactor die at once, if his Crimes be capital, and not have Reaſon to reproach thoſe Laws, which have been noted for Mercy to the vileſt Offenders.

I believe, few Perſons imagin'd, I had the leaſt heart to write an Apology, eſpecially as I have been convicted and undergone the utmoſt Rigour of the Law. But I preſume, that Truth, in whatever Colours painted, or however miſrepreſented, is always the ſame; and ſtill amiable, to thoſe who judge beyond external Appearances, as well after Condemnation, as before it. A meer Ceremony, a formal canvaſſing of Words, and the holding up of a Hand at the Bar, with ſuch like ſolemn Pageantry, can never alter the Nature of things, or change right into wrong. For

if to be condemn'd be a certain Proof of Guilt, then all the ancient Martyrs, the bleſſed Apoſtles, and even Chriſt himſelf, deſerv'd the Death of Slaves, Incendiaries, and Blaſphemers. But alas! 'tis too manifeſt, that a Man may be legally, and yet very unjuſtly convicted. One, that has the Purity of an Angel, may be eaſily a Criminal in the Eye of the Law, that Spider's Web, where Flies are entangled, but Swallows break through: that Noſe of Wax, that has been ſo often wreſted to the vileſt Purpoſes.

In this Narrative, I ſeek no Subterfuge or Evaſions to extenuate the thing on my own Side, or exceed the Bounds of Truth, in order to blacken my Adverſaries, who well know, I had room to ſay much more; but appeal to the World, whether there is one Circumſtance but what diſcovers the moſt palpable Contrivance, and barefac'd Villainy. To ſum up the whole Affair in brief, it ſtands thus. I, being Candidate for a School, unfortunately apply'd to one of the Electors for his Vote and Intereſt, who had always mortally hated my Father (for no other Cauſe, as I am inform'd, but becauſe they differ'd in Principles) and thought, he had as much reaſon to hate the Son. However, being unacquainted with the Man's Diſpoſition, I confided in his fair Promiſes: but when he thought me ſecure, and that I entirely depended on his Intereſt, he treacherouſly gave his Vote to another; and at the ſame time to excuſe this foul Treatment, reported that truly my Father had liv'd a Rogue and dy'd a Papiſt, and I was no better; that I was diſaffected to the Government, had been expell'd the Univerſity, and was guilty of Forgery. Any one

one of theſe Reports ſingly was ſufficient to ruin a young Man, juſt beginning to make his Fortune: but having taken extraordinary Pains to prove the Author a ſhameleſs Lyar, I was acquitted with Honour, and elected to his great Mortification. This, with ſome warm Expreſſions I had us'd, exaſperated a Temper naturally revengeful and malicious, to ſuch a Degree, that he reſolv'd, if poſſible, to ruin my Character, by raiſing ſome other vile Aſperſion which I ſhould not ſo eaſilywipe off. He ſaw it was neceſſary to proceed in a more private and artful manner than before; but, ſuch is the Nature of Revenge, he could not forbear diſcloſing the Rage and Bitterneſs of his Heart on ſeveral remarkable occaſions. For ſome time, He and his diſappointed Friend laid their Heads together, and finding nothing ſo likely to gain their Ends, as ſwearing Sodomitical Practices againſt me, (the very mention being enough to ruin one in my Station) they invented a plauſible Story, ſet proper Emiſſaries to work, and the Matter ſucceeded beyond Expectation. In ſhort, Mr *W*—— ſingled out ſome of the Childrens Parents, ſuch as were noted for being very poor and very wicked (the propereſt Tools in the World for ſuch dirty Work) and having privately inſtructed them in their Leſſons, order'd them to appear before him, on a Day ſpecify'd, with their Children, and exhibit a Complaint. The Parents having punctually obey'd his Inſtructions, a Warrant was procur'd from one of his own Acquaintance, partly let into the Secret, to bring me before his *Worſhip*, where I was accus'd in a more ſpecious and circumſtantial manner. In vain I inſiſted on my own Reputation,

the great Improbability of the thing, the very infamous Character of the Accuſers, and the inveterate Malice and Villainy of Mr *W*——, the chief Contriver. The Juſtice committed me to the County Goal, tho' he was offer'd Bail upon the Spot, or intreated at leaſt to ſend me to ſome other Priſon. In the interim, the Evidences were more fully confirm'd in their Story, ſome new ones trump'd up, and Papers order'd by Mr *W*. to be cry'd about the Streets, that, thro' a ſenſe of Guilt, I had murder'd my ſelf. When the Trial came on, ſome Inſtructors were placed behind the Children, to ſuggeſt Words, when they faulter'd: and to clench the Matter, Mr *J*—— was brought to ſwear, he had heard me make ſomething like a Confeſſion. Upon which (to make no Reflexion on my Uſage in Court) I was ſentenc'd to be expos'd in public; and when the Day came, theſe two Friends in Iniquity, that their Injuries might pierce the deeper, hir'd a great Number of the Populace to aſſault and wound me, inſomuch that I was almoſt cut to the Skull, and tho' cur'd with much Difficulty, ſhall carry the Mark to my Grave. After this, having heard I was going to vindicate my ſelf by writing, and dreading a thorough Diſcovery of their Villainies (ſome of their Inſtruments having already divulg'd the Secret) they ſent me a number of anonymous Letters, menacing even my Life, if I did not deſiſt. This is a ſummary and impartial Account of the whole Caſe, and I flatter my ſelf, that every unprejudic'd Perſon, who has the leaſt Regard for his own Character, or any Deteſtation of ſuch wicked Contrivances, will pity me.

Had

Had I indeed been a vile Perſon, or had the Accuſers born a tolerable Character, or had the Proſecutors been unbiaſs'd, the World might have had ſome Cauſe to think me criminal. But as ſo many Gentlemen, of the beſt Reputation, gave the handſomeſt Account of my whole Life; as my Accuſers were ſo very infamous, that their Praiſe would have been a Reproach; as the Promoter of the Proſecution was my mortal Enemy, who had endeavour'd, eight or ten times before, to ruin me without a Cauſe; as the whole Scheme was concerted with a direct View of ſerving a preſent Turn, and (which is moſt material, and ſeems deſign'd by Providence itſelf to manifeſt my Innocence) as one of the main Inſtruments of this vile Conſpiracy, overwhelm'd with the Horrors of a wounded Conſcience, curs'd her own Father for his Perjury, and preſently after hang'd herſelf; I hope the World, that has been ſo long impos'd on, will now conceive a juſt Indignation againſt the Authors of my Misfortunes. Had there been the leaſt Proof againſt me, 'twould certainly have been the wiſeſt Courſe to bury it in everlaſting Silence. But I am too much convinc'd of thoſe unparallell'd Wrongs I have ſuffer'd, to dread having the Matter canvaſs'd by the ſevereſt Judges. This caus'd me to rake the dying Embers together, which perhaps may burſt out into a Flame, and conſume the firſt Incendiaries. I have now done. Let my Adverſaries rave, and gnaſh their Teeth, and gnaw their own Hearts. Let them hire a thouſand Ruffains to murder me, and make a League with Hell itſelf againſt me. I am prepar'd for every Event. They have run the full Length of

their

their Chain, and muſt now ſnarl and curſe in ſecret. They have blaſted my good Name and utterly ruin'd my Fortune; ſo that I have neither Power to induce, nor Money to bribe any one; and if I had, 'tis ſcarce probable that above forty Perſons ſhould perjure themſelves upon my Account. As great, as wealthy, as powerful as they are, I challenge them all to convict me of one Falſity.

There are none, that ever had the leaſt Knowledge of me, but always thought me wrong'd. As for Strangers, they ought at leaſt to ſuſpend their Judgment, 'till they have maturely weigh'd every Circumſtance; and then, I don't queſtion, but they will be of the ſame Opinion. I am not ſo vain as to look on my ſelf as the peculiar Concern of Providence, above others that have ſuffer'd unjuſtly: or imagine, ſuch and ſuch Events are Judgments ſent from Heaven, when perhaps they are owing either to Accident or Nature. But 'tis well worth Obſervation, that almoſt every individual Perſon, concern'd either directly or indirectly in this moſt vile Contrivance, has been puniſh'd with ſome grievous Calamity. Wicked men for the moſt part eſcape in this World. But ſometimes Divine Vengeance overtakes them even here, in the very Height of their Security, leaſt diſtreſſed Virtue ſhould be ever without Hopes, or proſperous Guilt without Terrors and Apprehenſions. Go on, ye ſucceſsful Villains! and daily mock at Heaven. Seek out the gloomieſt Receſſes, where ye may be retir'd from the View of God himſelf. Then, and not till then, ſhall ye be ſecure, and triumph with Impunity. As wretched as ye

have

have made me, with all your Power and Malice join'd together, ye could not take away that Peace of Mind, which is the inſeparable Attendant of Innocence, and not only affords the ſweeteſt Conſolation in the various Diſtreſſes of Life, but whilſt we are cover'd o'er with Darkneſs and the Shadow of Death, anticipates the Joys of Paradice. What tho' the World condemn thee? Happy is he that can acquit himſelf. What tho' thy Sorrows have been enlarged beyond meaſure? A good Conſcience hath Charms that will lighten the heavieſt Afflictions. Is there not an impartial Tribunal, to which thou may'ſt appeal for Juſtice? A Tribunal, before which not only thy barbarous Proſecutors, but they themſelves who brought in their Verdict againſt thee, and even he, who pronounc'd the Sentence, muſt one day appear as Criminals, and will ſurely ſtand in need of the ſame Mercy they deny'd to thee. *O! thou to whom Vengeance belongeth! Judge and revenge the Cauſe of injur'd Innocence.*

TANTUM.

POSTSCRIPT.

This NARRATIVE ſhould have been publiſhed ſeveral Months ago, but for the Author's long Confinement, his very ill State of Health, and the repeated Efforts of his Enemies to deter him.

*** There is juſt ready for the Preſs

THE *Second Part of Mr* ISAAC BRODERICK's *Caſe, wherein the prodigious Malice and Perjury of his Enemies is further ſet forth; many Paſſages, entirely omitted in the former, being now added, and others that were juſt hinted at, more fully illuſtrated; to the perfect Diſcovery of that wicked Conſpiracy againſt him. With a Word of Advice to Mr* J—— *the Juſtice.*

Raro antecedentem Sceleſtum
Deſeruit pede Pœna claudo.